

**MINUTES**  
**MPO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
**JACKSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**  
**CITY HALL – 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – 111 EAST MAIN STREET**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2020 – 10:30 A.M.**  
**(VIRTUAL MEETING)**

**Members Present:**     **Mayor Scott Conger, City of Jackson**  
                                  **Mayor Larry Sanders, Three Way**  
                                  **Mayor Jimmy Harris, Madison County**  
                                  **Antoine Hawkins, TDOT-OCT**  
                                  **Russ McKelvey, Jackson City Council**

**Staff/Others Present:**

<b>Stan Pilant, Jackson MPO Coordinator</b>	<b>Ellen Williams, Jackson Police</b>
<b>Cody Roberts, TDOT</b>	<b>Ben Coles, Gresham-Smith</b>
<b>Nichole Lawrence, TDOT Region 4</b>	<b>Bill Moore, Gresham-Smith</b>
<b>Rachel Webb, TDOT</b>	<b>Mark Holloran, Gresham-Smith</b>
<b>Pamela Kordenbrock, FHWA</b>	<b>Seth Hendren, TDOT</b>
<b>Elizabeth Watkins, FHWA</b>	<b>Ashley Owens, TDOT</b>
<b>Whitney Dickson, JEA</b>	

The Executive Board meeting was called to order, and a determination of a quorum was made by the MPO Executive Board Chairman, Mayor Conger. Mayor Conger welcomed the public and officials in attendance and opened the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak. With no one requesting to speak, the minutes of August 28, 2020 were unanimously approved as submitted. Mayor Conger then asked that the group to begin review of agenda business items.

**Amendments to the FY 2020 – 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update** – Mr. Pilant presented the amendments made to the UPWP to the MPO Executive Board and stated that the amendments will reflect changes made to accommodate the Planning Assistance Program. There will be an update to the Public Participation Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan Update, which the Planning Assistance Program will be utilized for state funding to satisfy the local match. As a result, Mr. Pilant explained that an amendment to the UPWP was required to show cost figures for the two projects in the UPWP and to reflect funding from the Planning Assistance Program.

The amendments were presented to the MPO Technical Staff and were recommended for approval to the MPO Executive Board.

The amendments to the FY 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update were unanimously approved on motion of Mayor Jimmy Harris and seconded by Russ McKelvey.

**Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects** – Mr. Pilant explained that it is required to publish annual listings each year of federal obligated projects to show federal funds that will be involved with the projects. The listing reflects all projects on the highway and transit side.

**2022 – 2024 Three Year Project Ranking List Review** – Mr. Pilant explained that TDOT requires ranking of projects to show their priority. He also explained that the projects would occur in the fiscal year of 2022 for Jared Lane to North of Medon-Malesus Road and the fiscal year of 2024 for the remaining projects. The projects were presented to the MPO Technical Staff and were recommended for approval of their rankings to the MPO Executive Board. The ranking of the 2022-2024 Three Year Project Ranking List are as follows:

1. (Bolivar Highway) SR-18 from North of Medon-Malesus Road to US-45 (SR-5)
2. SR-18 from North of Jared Lane to North of Medon-Malesus Road
3. SR-18 from North of Jared Lane to North of Medon-Malesus Road
4. (Southern Bypass) SR-186 from SR-1 (Airways Boulevard) to SR-5 (South Highland Avenue)

A motion was made by Mayor Jimmy Harris, seconded by Russ McKelvey to approve the projects and their rankings as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Status report of current transportation projects** – Mark Holloran, Gresham-Smith, gave a presentation and update on the Southern Extension of US 45 Bypass from State Route 1 (US 70/Airways Boulevard) to State Route 5 (US 45/South Highland Avenue). He briefly discussed the project timeline to the design phase, design project limits, project features and the design phase scope of work.

Ben Coles, Gresham-Smith, discussed the exhibits to show the magnitude of the project.

Afterwards, Mr. Holloran mentioned that the estimated construction cost of the project is over \$150 million dollars. He also discussed the tentative project design schedule as follows:

Grade and Alignment – Early 2021  
Design Public Meeting – September 2021  
Final Preliminary Plans – January 2022  
ROW Public Meeting – January 2023  
Final ROW Plans – March 2023  
Construction Plans – TBD  
Construction Letting – TBD

**Status report of FHWA/FTA** – Pamela Kordenbrock, FHWA, stated that the Fast Act has been extended in hopes of a continuing resolution. Ms. Kordenbrock mentioned that she appreciates the Jackson Area MPO for taking advantage of TDOT's Planning Assistance Program to assist with the Long Range Plan. She also mentioned that she appreciates the continuing opportunities for virtual meetings and thanks the Jackson Area MPO for its continued support and partnership.

**Updates** - Antoine Hawkins, TDOT-OCT, stated that the Interstate 40 Corridor Study public meeting was held on December 9, 2020 that provided recommendations for the 18 month Transportation Planning Study.

Mr. Hawkins mentioned that the Urban Transportation Planning Grant will be opening on January 4, 2021. Anyone within the MPO planning area, whether city or county, can apply. This planning grant can be rewarded up to \$200,000 with a 10% match requirement to assist urban areas with transportation related solutions.

Mr. Hawkins also mentioned that as of October 19, 2020, Matt Meservy is now the Director of Long Range Planning Division.

Seth Hendren, TDOT, gave an update on the Legislative Project for the Jackson area. He stated that the easternmost of the I-40 widening project is currently under construction and the western section of I-40, which is west of Hollywood, will begin by the summer of 2021. The two projects that are on the northern section from North of Medon-Malesus State Route 5 are currently being reviewed and moving forward. He also stated that the preliminary plans for the section North of Jared Lane and North of Medon-Malesus are nearing completion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.